



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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FOR INFORMATION CALL:
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LANTOS HAILS DECISION TO KEEP DOORS OPEN AT SAN MATEO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER

***GAO Report Requested by Lantos Led to
U.S. Postal Service's Decision to Save San Mateo Jobs***

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo/San Francisco) today welcomed the decision by the U.S. Postal Service to keep the San Mateo Information Technology Center open. The Postmaster General had planned to close the facility but was persuaded by Congressman Lantos to keep the IT Center in operation until a report studying the impact of the potential closure could be conducted by the General Accounting Office as requested by the Congressman. The GAO report recommended that the Postal Service update the economic information on which it based its earlier decision.

In a letter to Congressman Lantos and to Postal Service employees in San Mateo announcing the decision, the U.S. Postal Service said, "We have a continuing need for IT operations in San Mateo and have no plans to close the facility at this time. In fact, as you know, we have increased the level of development work performed in San Mateo over the past several months."

"I am thrilled by today's news that our efforts to save the San Mateo Information Technology Center and its hundreds of hard-working employees finally paid off. By reversing its earlier decision to close the facility, the Postmaster General heeded the advice of the GAO study that I ordered. As our area struggles to cope with economic hard times, now is not the time to close this critical facility. The San Mateo IT Center is open for business -- and I will continue to fight to ensure that it stays that way," Congressman Lantos said.

Congressman Lantos requested the GAO study that prompted today's decision in September 2000, after the Postal Service first indicated the possibility of closing the San Mateo facility. At that time, the Congressman specifically asked the GAO to investigate the social costs of this downsizing on displaced workers and the "financial hardships on workers and their families who cannot relocate."

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